

Charlie Mae was also instrumental in the establishment of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center in Oakland, an organization that I helped found and am particularly proud of. In the mid-1990's, we had this idea to create a leadership academy for students, inspired by the teachings of Dr. King.

I was in the state legislature in California at the time, and I proposed a bill to establish a memorandum of understanding between the City of Oakland, the East Bay Park District and several other local agencies in order to provide the resources for the MLK Freedom Center to exist. Charlie Mae, who was one of the principal founders of the center, helped organize busloads of my constituents from Oakland up to Sacramento to testify on the importance of the project, and why the bill was so important.

That effort was essential to the passage of the bill and the formal creation of the center, which now has taught hundreds of young people from the East Bay about leadership, conflict resolution, violence prevention and civic engagement and is really helping to create the next generation of social activist leaders.

On a personal note, I was proud to call Charlie Mae my friend for decades, and am indebted to her for her leadership in empowering Oakland residents to work together to create a better city and world for themselves, their neighbors, and future generations. It was such an honor this past May to present Charlie Mae with the first Mildred Parish Massey Legacy Award, named after my late mother. It was a happy moment for Charlie Mae, and inspiring for me to know that I had the chance to say thank you to her for her service, her friendship, her leadership and her love.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District honors Charlie Mae Davis' memory, and her lifetime of service working on behalf of social justice and equality. I join her loved ones in celebrating her incredible life with a promise to honor her tremendous legacy.

HONORING STEVE MCKERNAN

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to recognize Steve McKernan, Chief Executive Officer of University of New Mexico Hospitals, as he prepares for his retirement after 37 years of service to the people of Bernalillo County and the State of New Mexico.

In 1980, Mr McKernan began his career at the University of New Mexico Hospital. Mr. McKernan began as a staff accountant and worked his way up through the organization, becoming CEO in 1996. During his 21 years as CEO, Mr. McKernan was an integral part of a team relentlessly focused on improving the care of the people of New Mexico.

Thanks to Mr McKernan's vision and leadership, UNM Hospitals provide the level and specialties of care that are only available in the largest teaching hospitals in the country. During Mr. McKernan's tenure, the Barbara and Bill Richardson Pavilion opened in 2008 and a network of community-based clinics was established, providing healthcare throughout the City of Albuquerque.

In addition to his achievements in growing the mission and reach of UNM Hospitals, Mr. McKernan has gained national prominence in the hospital community, serving on the Board of the America's Essential Hospitals. He has also been involved in a variety of local community and business groups, including the Rotary Club, the New Mexico Hospital Association and the Boy Scouts of America.

It is with great honor and privilege that I take this moment to thank Steve for his service and commitment to our community, the lives of New Mexicans are forever changed because of his work. I wish him and his wife Becky an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING PETER HARVELL

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Peter Harvell, who will retire as Director of Veterans Benefits and Services of Framingham, Massachusetts on September 28, 2017. Peter's lifetime of service shows us how one person's undeterrable mission to help others can positively impact his broader community.

Peter has dedicated the past 13 years to helping veterans by connecting them with state and federal benefits, partnering with community organizations, and ensuring the stability and growth of their mental and financial health.

Peter has been one of our veterans' strongest advocates in the towns of Sudbury and Framingham. He partnered with local food banks, jail diversion task forces, and legal aid services to help veterans and service members who fell on hard times. He worked with the VFW, the American Legion, and local National Guard units to host welcome home ceremonies. He paid our veterans their due respect on national holidays. Above all, Peter maintains relationships and provides support to our Gold Star families.

Prior to his service to the towns of Sudbury and Framingham, Peter spent 23 years in the U.S. Army serving in the U.S. Special Operations Command. After preparing OPERATION EAGER ANVIL in DESERT STORM and coordinating NATO missions in Bosnia, he returned home to continue service as a congressional liaison at USSOCOM for two years.

Peter's dedication and leadership honor our Commonwealth and our country. We thank him for his years of service and wish him a happy and successful retirement.

CELEBRATING EL AVISO MAGAZINE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute El Aviso Magazine, an award-winning Spanish-language weekly publication based in my 40th Congressional District, as it begins its 30th anniversary celebration.

Since its establishment in 1988, El Aviso Magazine has focused its reporting on local areas with the highest populations of Latinos. The publication offers a unique blend of topics ranging from social and political, to health and welfare, to family, culture, and entertainment.

At its inception, El Aviso Magazine shared an office with a travel agency in the City of Huntington Park, and only had two employees and five distributors. At that time, the magazine's weekly circulation reached an audience of 70,000, and its method of distribution was door-to-door. Today, an average issue reaches an audience of more than 600,000, and it can be found at over 10,000 points of distribution in 136 cities and neighborhoods in the greater Los Angeles area, Orange County, the San Fernando Valley, and the Inland Empire.

El Aviso Magazine has received countless awards from the National Association of Hispanic Publications, and has also received national recognition for its editorial content and covers. In 2004, it received an award for being the fastest-growing publication in the United States. At the 2014 National Association of Hispanic Publications Convention, El Aviso Magazine received the Gold Award for the Most Outstanding Newsprint Magazine.

Over the past 30 years, Jessica Maes Zepeda and Jose Ramiro Zepeda, along with their family, have operated this family-owned magazine. Mr. Zepeda was born in Mexico, and immigrated to the United States in the mid-1980s in search of the American Dream. As he was searching for the right business, he witnessed the passage and implementation of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Mr. Zepeda saw the need to inform the Spanish-speaking community in a language they could read and understand. This led him to produce a Spanish publication that would serve the Latino community across Southern California—El Aviso Magazine. Mr. Zepeda has worked diligently for the past three decades and has made El Aviso Magazine a success story.

Mrs. Zepeda, the magazine's co-owner and its director of public relations and community affairs, was raised in Southeast Los Angeles, where she attended local parochial schools and decided to pursue a career in real estate. In the early 1980s, she joined the Downey Board of Realtors and served as vice president. She then became the president of the Women's Council of Realtors, and the director of the California Association of Realtors.

In 1994, Mrs. Zepeda became politically active and was elected to the Huntington Park City Council. Through her accomplishments, she became the first woman to hold the position of Mayor for the City of Huntington Park three years later.

Mrs. Zepeda has received numerous accolades for her community service from elected officials in the State of California and Congress, and from non-profit organizations. The California Chamber of Commerce recently recognized Mrs. Zepeda with the 2017 Pioneer Empresaria Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Zepeda believe in assisting the less fortunate and those in need. Their dedication to the community and their philanthropic activities are reflected through El Aviso Magazine's involvement with various non-profits, including the YMCA, Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club of America, Human Services Association, Southeast Relay for Life, faith-based groups, and local schools.